

COLORADO DESERT A LAKE.

FORNIANS.

MORE THAN A FOOT OF WATER SUDDENLY AP-
PEARS IN THE GREAT INLAND BASIN—

AN INDIAN THEORY OF THE
PHENOMENON.
(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

San Francisco, June 29.—The sudden flooding of the lowest part of the Colorado Desert, about Salton, is one of the strangest phenomena ever witnessed on this coast. Here is a great inland basin which at its lowest part is 270 feet below the sea level. It has an area of 3,000 square miles, and extends from about 100 miles from the Colorado River clear to Seven Palms on the Southern Pacific Railroad. Near Salton are extensive salt works where the product exists almost in its natural state. On Saturday evening moisture was noticed all over this salt deposit, and soon little streams of water were seen trickling along, coming, apparently, from the south portion of the valley. These kept increasing in volume and spread out, joining each other, until by Sunday morning there were twelve inches of water covering the ground for several miles. Of course as it came through the salt earth it was regular brine.

The water continued to rise all day yesterday and the latest reports to-day are that all the region for miles around Salton is a great salt

lake which in its deepest part is fourteen feet deep. The railroad which is only three feet above the level of the Desert is not covered, as it is on higher ground. The great salt works are mined for a time. Those who have been on the ground and watched the incoming of the water declare that it is due to a strong underground current coming from the ocean.

At Indio another phenomenon was found to have occurred. For a number of years the railroad company has had an artesian well flowing at a little distance seven miles east of Indio, which has been sunk at considerable expense. This well was found dry about the time that the flow of water had first been noticed at the salt mines. After twenty-four hours the well resumed its flow; which started the theory that the artesian stream was responsible for the flood. The theory of the Indians, who have lived on the desert many years, is that the melting of heavy snows in the mountains swelled the Colorado River waters and they are forced back nearly 100 miles into the desert. It is the overflowing of the banks of this stream into the great basin of the Colorado that has caused the lake to appear. The Indians say the same thing happened about fifty years ago.

All the region in the Colorado Desert which is now flooded shows signs of former marine life and

salts and other extraneous materials extending to the San Geronimo Pass, in the San Bernard Mountains, the gateway from the desert to the orange groves of southern California. The fact that this region has once been covered by water, as Dr. O. M. Woodward, of California, has devised a scheme for diverting the water of the Colorado River upon the desert. He estimated that 2,000,000 acres could be converted into rich agricultural land, as the soil will produce like the valley of the Nile if it has plenty of water. His scheme was indorsed by some of our engineers, but it is doubtful if it will ever be put into practice.

The Colorado Desert of California is in San Diego County, the most southern county of California. It is located by the Colorado River on the eastern side, the San Bernardino Mountains on the north, Lower California on the south, and the fertile coast lands on the west. This region is composed of recent formations and is situated according to the last degree. It has many lakes and creek beds. These lakes, or gulfs, often, very deep, are always salt and bitter, and often without water most of the year, but the beds of the lakes are covered with alkaline deposits. This region, like the famous Death Valley, is very dry, gives striking evidence of the volcanic character and the changes which have taken place, some of them in modern times. There are few stations on the southern Pacific south of Seven Palms, and Salton,

which is reported to be flooded, is between two large dry lake beds, and the water is being driven into a slip-pit, and in one of the valleys of the San Bernardino Mountains.

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THE MISSOURI RIVER BOOMING.

ANXIETY OF THE PEOPLE LIVING ON ITS BANKS
—DROMS IN THE WEST.

Kansas City, June 25.—The recent heavy rains have caused a rise in the Missouri river. At 11 o'clock last night the water stood at twenty-one feet four inches, which is four inches above the danger line. At 7 o'clock this morning the signal service reported the gauge at twenty-one feet nine inches, and the river was rising at the rate of an inch per hour. A rise of two feet since Saturday night is reported at St. Joseph, which increases still higher water here. In the lower parts of Harkness, across the river, the water is running through the rapids, and a number of the people are moving to higher ground.

"The Star" at St. Joseph, Mo., dispatch says: "The river has risen steadily since Saturday, and at noon today is within eighteen inches of the highest point it reached since ten years. Residents of the country looking north of this city are in a state of alarm, and many are preparing to move. The water is still rising, and reports received from Sioux City and Omaha show a gain of six and seven feet respectively. If the river should overflow the French bottoms it is expected that a new channel will be cut through, leaving many farms on one side and divorcing the river from the Kansas shore two miles. If the present rate of rise

continues twenty-four hours, the situation here would become very serious," he said. The situation is serious as the packing interests as well as hundreds of small farmers on the river have been threatened.

"At 6 o'clock this evening the water registered three feet above normal low-water mark, or tenets three feet steadily one inch per hour, and will probably reach five feet by midnight," he said. "The people here have been made nervous by the accounts of the disastrous floods in Iowa and Missouri, and no doubt many who at present are in no danger have moved out of their homes and sought absolute safety in the hills."

"The fact that the rains along the river are subsiding and the crops saved, however, has somewhat lessened the apprehension."

The embankment at Hannibal and St. Joe Railroad crossing, where the river at right angles across from this city. This embankment has served as a sort of dam, preventing the river from overflowing its banks. It is situated below it from the flood. Some fears are expressed that the embankment may not be able to withstand the pressure of the flood.

"It is very valuable and will be salvaged, including the works of the Kansas City Racing Association. In view of the fact that the river has been so long breaking through levees, it is probable that some of the levees there have been removed to places of safety."

"On this site of the river the high water has caused no damage, except to the levee which was built on the bank, which empties into the Missouri at this place. These back waters have submerged much of the levee, and it is probable that some of the levees there have been obliged to abandon their position."

The water has also backed up in the sewers in Kansas City, and some parts of the town. The Consolidated Tank Line Company's wharf are flooded from the latter

lost in the power phases of the town.

Chariton, Iowa, June 29.—Governor Boies arrived in this city this morning and after surveying the flooded district, issued a proclamation to the people of the state, calling for aid for the victims of the recent flood.

Cincinnati, June 29.—A Dispatch, Ind., dispatch to "The Times-Star" says the severest rain and wind storm ever known there occurred about 5 o'clock yesterday. Trees were uprooted and streets flooded with flood water and several persons were killed. Local storms of wind, hail and rain passed over different portions of Southern Indiana and into Kentucky afternoon. Great damage was done to wheat.

Denver, Colo., June 29.—News has just been received of a destructive tornado which passed over this county twenty five miles east of the city Thursday night. The houses were blown away, trees uprooted and carried away, and the crops for many miles around are completely ruined. A dozen persons were injured, none seriously. C. S. Clark was in from his ranch thirty miles from here and says that the hail fell for twenty minutes and killed about 200 sheep, and the eyes of many were put out. A. J. Adams, living two miles from here, says that the hail was as large as hen's eggs fell, killing chickens and other fowls as large as hens. Of North Low, reports crops badly damaged.

Waterloo, Iowa, June 29.—A heavy hail storm passed over this county and the surrounding country about fifteen miles southwest of here, last night. The storm lasted only about fifteen minutes, but in that